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(once amended) 10. An integrated circuit comprising: a switch adapted to receive a packet of binary digital signals as encoded binary digital signals including a bit pattern chosen so that when the bit pattern is encoded it directly provides information regarding routing the packet through the network in its encoded form[used to route the packet through the network];

said switch being further adapted to copy the encoded binary digital signals including the bit pattern[used to route the packet through the network], at least for decoding[the encoded binary digital signals].

(once amended) 17. A method of routing a packet of binary digital signals through a network, said method comprising[the steps of]:

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receiving at a switch in the network the packet of binary digital signals as encoded binary digital signals including a bit pattern chosen so that when the bit pattern is encoded it directly provides information regarding routing the packet through the network in its encoded form[encoded binary digital signals specifying a route through the network] without decoding.

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(once amended) 22. An integrated circuit comprising:

a switch adapted to receive a packet of binary digital signals, the packet of binary digital signals including a bit pattern chosen so that when the bit pattern is encoded it directly provides information regarding routing the packet through the network in its encoded form[encoded binary digital signals specifying a route through a network] without decoding.

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(once amended) 25. An integrated circuit comprising: a route unit adapted to produce binary digital signals to be included in a packet of binary digital signals that after encoding includes a bit pattern chosen so that when the bit pattern is encoded it directly provides information regarding routing the packet through the network in its encoded form[specify a route through a network] without decoding.